

## Tenacious

October 19, 2024

“Persistent in existence “, “Tending to keep a firm hold on something “. Our daughter in law, Noriko, started working as a nurse again. “All the young nurses quit because they think the older nurses are too strict. It doesn't bother me though.” Tenacity.

The Israelites wanted to stone Moses for trying to lead them into the promised land. When God said he would judge them for their hardness of heart, Moses prayed God would have mercy on them which meant he had to lead them around the desert for the next 40 years. Tenacity!! It takes tenacity to keep on keeping on. Many of the pastors in our prefecture are over 60 and Martin will be 65 next month. We keep having new people come—a 24 year old guy(Mr D) this week. We have things that give us joy at the same time as things that make our hearts heavy and weary. We find ourselves in the same position as the other pastors—getting older with no one to pass the baton

on to. But perhaps that is a good place to be. We have the same challenges as they do—asking God for God breathed ideas that will help his servants against the odds and will bring his kingdom here. I like it that he told us to pray that his will will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

So while thinking about tenacity and looking up about it I read some articles on the tenacity of God! I never really used that word to describe him. But he above everyone else is tenacious! He holds onto us and keeps his plan that he made literally before the beginning of time. He still hears the cry of his people and still refreshes the faint. We are grateful that He is still calling people to follow him. Yesterday I had a Bible study with a guest in the morning and after feeding them lunch cooked for 51 people before 5pm for a barbecue. Today seeker Miss S bashfully said she wanted to get baptized at Christmas to which several burst into tears of joy! And last night many new people came to the “season's last barbecue event”. Today at the worship service, Mrs. S, who said she wanted to get baptized last year but didn't, really interacted with Martin's message about who is the king in your life. Mrs G also thought deeply about the message. There was a new man in church today— a young doctor who had attended church until university and his daughter.

If we don't get distracted, every day we see the amazing tenacity of God and that he is working to bring new people and grow the new believers in the church. Church members are aware that



BBQ outreach (top)  
New family-1<sup>st</sup> time



Church ladies with Miss S

we don't have helpers though we don't talk about it and they have been making an effort to help talk to new people.

Thanks for praying, Martin and Ruth Mae

#### GIVING THANKS TO GOD:

1) for the tenacity of God himself and that he always is always working in lives and situations for his kingdoms sake.

2) that he is bringing young families to event and other new people as well at the same time as continuing to work in people who were already coming.

3) that Miss S had expressed her desire to be baptized at Christmas

4) that church people are trying to be friendly to new people and be helpful in various ways.

5) that we had a nice visit with Bethany and Roy

6) that he brought three different guests from three different countries and gave us the chance to tell them about him



Family time with Roy and Bethany



Mimi with Mr Kudoh

#### ASKING GOD TO:

1) particularly work in the hearts of Miss S and Mrs S to prepare them to be baptized and that they will be protected from the thoughts that Satan would use to dissuade them.

2) continue to grow believers to welcome others and share their testimonies with the people around them.

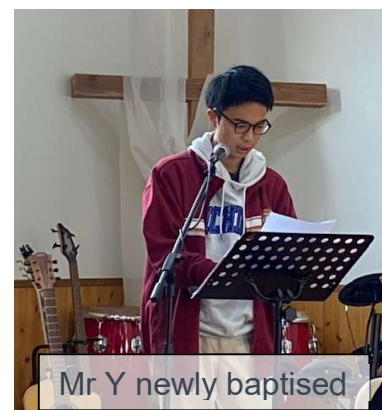
3) continue to connect the new people who are coming, and that we will be able to share continually deeper and deeper

4) continually refresh and energize us and help us to keep up with the opportunities we have graciously been given.

5) help Martin as he speaks with other pastors who are in difficult situations. Many have started churches, seen people saved but then key people move to bigger cities.

Smaller town churches always have to be starting all over again meanwhile the pastor gets older and older with no one to help.

May we have wisdom from our tenacious God!



Mr Y newly baptised

Martin and Ruth Mae Ghent

[mrghent@gmail.com](mailto:mrghent@gmail.com)



Martin attending mtg with missionaries and pastors